

Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensemble (Music x48)
2011-2012

Meetings: Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 9:30 PM, Fine Arts Building 2-27 (Studio 27)

Professor: Michael Frishkopf

Office: 347 Arts Building (Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology/folkwaysAlive)

Office hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 3:00 PM (334D Old Arts Building – signup: bit.ly/mfwiki)

Tel: 780-492-0225

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TA: Jill Fulton, jsfulton@ualberta.ca

Goals of the course:

- To introduce you to music of the MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) region, including music of Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, Kurdish, Berber, Nubian, Armenian, Greek, and other linguistic groups, through performance
- To become attuned to the rich culture and history of this region, through its music
- To gain theoretical and practical understanding of Arab music concepts, including melodic modes (*maqamat*) and rhythmic cycles (*durub*)
- To develop musical skills, including the ability to perform in the modes, and some facility in improvisation.
- To learn, practice, and polish a core repertoire of songs and instrumental pieces.
- To present performances of this repertoire to the University and Edmonton communities several times during the year. Off-campus, such performances will typically be educational or fund-raiser benefits for good causes. Here is our concert schedule so far:
 - ❖ World Music Sampler: Saturday, November 26, 2011, 7:30 pm – 10:30 pm
 - ❖ Final concert: Thursday, March 29, 2012, 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm (Required dress rehearsal on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm)
 - ❖ Winspear World Music sampler: Sunday, April 1st, 3:00 PM (NB: may be restricted to more advanced ensemble members)

Notes:

- Private music lessons are not available through this course, but arrangements may be possible; see instructor. Also see the instructor if you wish to purchase any instruments.
- Some percussion instruments are available for borrowing. Please see the TA for signout and return.
- Singing is central to this music and the chorus can accommodate any number of participants.
- All continuous-pitch instruments are welcome, even if they are not traditionally used in Arab music. Violin, viola, cello, and bass all work well.
- Neither the ability to read musical notation nor prior musical or cultural experience is required.
- Aural training is central.
- We will all experiment with improvisation in the melodic modes (*taqasim*).
- You will require access to the Internet in order to obtain course materials, and receive email announcements (please be sure to provide your email address.)
- Please see me if you wish to perform a vocal solo
- *Please come to class on time!* And please limit mid-class breaks to 15 minutes (usually 8:00 to 8:15 PM).

Requirements:

- Participation: Your grade will depend on regular, *punctual* attendance, and active, energetic involvement. We will take attendance every Thursday.
- Listening, and practicing: it is crucial to listen and to practice as much as possible.
- Self-assessment: a 2-3 page self-assessment is to be submitted (via email) at the end of each term, in which you'll document your progress during the previous term, including a list of pieces, modes, and rhythms mastered, and a discussion of difficulties encountered. The student should be prepared to demonstrate this mastery to the instructor during the last class of each term.
- Keeping all handouts organized in a binder. Please remember to bring your binder to each class, and don't take more than one copy of each handout. For concerts, use a smaller, black binder containing needed handouts in order.
- Photocopying and equipment fee (\$10). Because the department budget is limited, we ask all group members (whether you are enrolled in the course or not) to contribute \$10 to cover photocopying and other expenses associated with our use of Music Department equipment and space.
- NB: There will be no other exams, quizzes, or other papers assigned, except for those enrolling in Music 548, who should consult the instructor to arrange for preparation of a research paper.

Official policy

Please carefully review the following:

Learning and Working Environment¹

The Department of Music is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment.

The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice at 780.492.4236.

Definitions, as taken from the University's GFC Policy Manual, Section 44.5

Discrimination is any act or omission based on race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, age, ancestry, place of origin, family status, source of income, sexual orientation or political belief when that act or omission results in loss of or limit on opportunities to work or to fully participate in campus life or which offends the dignity of the person.

Harassment is conduct or comments which are intimidating, threatening, demeaning or abusive and may be accompanied by direct or implied threats to grades, status or job. Harassment can occur between people of differing authority or between people of similar authority. Harassment may be directed at an individual or at a group. Harassment has the impact of creating a work or study

¹<http://www.music.ualberta.ca/Resources/StaffResources/Learning%20and%20Working%20Environment.aspx>

environment that is hostile and limits individuals in their pursuit of education, research or work goals.

Physical Contact Policy

The nature of teaching in the Department of Music may require the instructor to touch students in order to effectively convey aspects of instrumental, vocal or conducting technique. This physical contact is to be done in a manner that is understood to be appropriate by both the faculty member and the student. In order to ensure that this requirement is understood by everyone involved, instructors will inform students about the extent and nature of physical contact that may be required in a performance instruction course commencing on the first teaching session and ask students if they have any concerns about the types of physical contact that may be required.

Students should advise the teacher of any concerns they may have, either when they are first explained or at any time during the course. Students have the option of having another person of their choice present during teaching.

It is the responsibility of the instructor to ensure that as far as is practical, students' concerns are considered and that action is taken to eliminate those concerns during teaching.

Code of Student Behavior

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour² and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Grading:

For Music 148, 248, 348, 448:

- ½ participation and general involvement in classes
- ½ self-assessment

For Music 548 (graduate level), the research paper, participation/involvement, and self-assessment will each count for one-third of the final grade.

Note: If you are a student, you should encode your Onecard to provide access to Studio 27. Ask in the Music Office (382 FAB) for details. There is only one designated day for encoding early in each term. If you are not a student but wish to have access, please see the instructor.

Learning resources:

- Handouts (music notation and lyrics). Please keep these arranged alphabetically in a binder for easy reference.
- The class wiki: <http://bit.ly/mename>

²<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>

- Instruments (mainly percussion, available for signout and practice in the instrument room adjoining Studio 27)
- Other members of the ensemble.

Evaluation:

Grading is on a scale from 0-4.

A:	4.0
A-:	3.7
B+:	3.3
B:	3.0
B-:	2.7
C+:	2.3
C:	2.0
C-:	1.7
D+:	1.3
D:	1.0
F:	0.0

Academic integrity and course outlines

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. (GFC 29 SEP 2003)

Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003).